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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
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S E C R E T SAIGON 2224

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Sgarbey DATE 10/6/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

L I M D I S

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

1. [ ] TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT GVN WOULD HOLD SEMINAR AUGUST 1 THROUGH 3 FOR PROVINCE CHIEFS, DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEFS FOR ADMINISTRATION, AND PROVINCIAL VIS CHIEFS. SEMINAR WILL BE ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS. PURPOSE OF MEETING WILL BE TO OBTAIN AN ACCOUNTING FROM PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AS TO JUST HOW PLANS ARE PROCEEDING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SECURIT AND INFORMATION. SEMINAR WILL BE OPENED BY PRIMIN NGUYEN CAO KY AND AFTER OPENING SESSION MINISTER OF REVOLUTIONARY

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DEVELOPMENT WILL TAKE OVER THE CHAIR ASSISTED BY MININFORMATIO AND CHIEU HOI NGUYEN BAO TRI, MINSECURITY LINH QUANG VIEN AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER NGUYEN VAN TUONG. TWO-AND-A-HALF DAY SESSION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. (THIS IS SEMINAR REFERRED TO BY BUI DIEM IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH KISSINGER JULY 23. EMBTEL 1754.) IN ADDITION TO GETTING FIRST HAND REPORTS FROM PROVINCES ON ELECTION PROGRESS, MEETING WILL ALSO FURNISH GVN OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE ITS DETERMINATION TO HOLD FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS.

2. [ ] TOLD EMBOFF THAT CENTRAL REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS MEETING AT THE PRESENT TIME IN SAIGON'S PALAIS DE JUSTICE EXAMINING SOME THIRTY DOSSIERS BELONGING TO CANDIDATES WHO WERE DISQUALIFIED AS A RESULT OF LOCAL SCREENING AND HAD APPEALED DISQUALIFICATION. ACCORDING TO [ ] NINE CANDIDATES

SECRET

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WERE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE OF COMMUNIST OR NEUTRALIST BACKGROUNDS. WHEN CENTRAL REVIEW COMMISSION HAS FINISHED ITS WORK FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES WILL BE POSTED AUGUST 12 AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE ELECTORAL LAW.

3. JUST BEFORE INTERVIEW [redacted] THANKED EMBOFF FOR EMBASSY'S

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EFFORTS IN EFFECTING CORRECTION CERTAIN IRREGULARITIES WHICH HAD COME TO LIGHT IN II CORPS. EARLIER IN WEEK [redacted] HAD CALLED EMBOFF TO TELL HIM THAT LATE FILING OF MILITARY CANDIDATES HAD BEEN PERMITTED IN CERTAIN II CORPS PROVINCES. HE HAD ASKED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING THIS INFORMATION TO ATTENTION PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. EMBOFF PASSED INFORMATION TO [redacted] WHO, IN TURN, TOLD GENERAL NGUYEN DUC THANG. [redacted] REPORTED TODAY THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN CORRECTED ON ORDERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

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